



January 14, 2016

Gina McCarthy, Administrator
U.S. EPA Headquarters, William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (Mailcode 1101-A)
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Labor-Management Partnership, Safe Working Conditions

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We are writing to you as the Presidents of the three unions in Region 9: Engineers and Scientists of California, EPA Unit (ESC), National Treasury Employees Union Chapter 295 (NTEU), and American Federation of Government Employees, Local 1236 (AFGE). This letter transmits a copy of a petition circulated to staff stationed at 75 Hawthorne Street in San Francisco in December 2015 on behalf of those members of the workforce displaced by poor indoor air quality and inadequate ventilation in this building.

Attached is the petition and 208 signatures representing more than 25% of the regional workforce, from all Divisions, and from renovated and unrenovated floors. The petition calls for more a more proactive and organized response to air quality and ventilation concerns by EPA management.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Mark Sims, President, ESC, EPA Unit

Patrick Chan, President, NTEU Chapter 295

Thelma Estrada, President, AFGE Local 1236

cc: Meiburg, Brooks, Noga, Blumenfeld, Strauss, McIlwain

Indoor Air Quality Petition December 2015

Employees, contractors, and visitors of the Environmental Protection Agency in Region 9 have been asked to work at 75 Hawthorne while the building undergoes extensive interior construction. Previous testing showed that the indoor air has contained elevated levels of contaminants for almost a year and that the building does not meet minimum ventilation standards.

In a recent survey conducted by NTEU, AFGE, and ESC (so that employees could speak freely) employees reported suffering symptoms due to poor indoor air quality. Although some individuals expressed reluctance to complain to EPA management, dozens of employees from every floor of the building have reported becoming sick.

Management's standard response has been to relocate affected employees to other floors in the building, including floors on which other employees have already reported becoming sick. However, Management has not provided any assurance – supported by test results - that the indoor environment at 75 Hawthorne is healthy and safe for employees on any floor of the building.

This is not acceptable.

We, the undersigned, call on the Environmental Protection Agency to:

- 1) Conduct comprehensive HVAC and indoor air quality testing on every floor of 75 Hawthorne Street.
- 2) Complete remediation necessary to confirm each floor is safe for EPA employees to work.
- 3) Permit all EPA employees to work from home (or other alternate location) 5 days a week who wish to do so, effective immediately, until testing confirms that the building is safe.